Pesticide testing laboratories in Delhi

†1809. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a laboratory has been set up in Delhi to test the pesticides in fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the effective steps taken by Government to ensure that the pesticides and chemical manures are not used indiscriminately to increase the yield of fruits and vegetables; and

(c) what action is taken against the people who play with the health of common people in such a way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Several laboratories in Delhi are engaged in work relating to pesticide residue analysis in fruits and vegetables.

(b) and (c) Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management as the cardinal principle of its Plant Protection Policy which envisages use of cultural, biological and mechanical methods and judicious need based use of chemical pesticides. Central Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Centres have been set up across the country to, *inter alia*, impart training to farmers and extension functionaries in Integrated Pest Management by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). IPM packages of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed and circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on *www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin*.

The Insecticides Act stipulates that labels and leaflets accompanying pesticides packages should contain instructions regarding the approved uses, doses, time of application, precautions, pre-harvest intervals (waiting period), etc. to ensure safe use of pesticides. Non-compliance with these provisions are punishable under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Labs for testing quality of fertilizers

†1810.SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that products of some fertilizer companies have

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

been found to be substandard and hence a ban has been imposed on their sale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of fertilizer companies in the country having and not having a provision of labs for testing quality of their products alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) the action Government would take against the companies for not having any labs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No such information has come to the notice of the Government regarding ban on sale of fertilizers by any manufacturing units under Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO). However, on all India basis about 6% of the samples were found non standard during 2005-06.

(c) The FCO, 1985 has prescribed minimum requirement of specific laboratory facilities to be possessed by the certain categories of manufacturers namely Single Super Phosphate, fertilizer mixtures and micronutrient fertilizers. Most of the major fertilizer manufacturing units maintain such laboratory facilities to ensure the quality. No information is available about the companies having or not having the laboratory facilities in their production units.

(d) Non possession of laboratory facilities as prescribed by the Government under Clause 21 of FCO, 1985 by the specific group of manufacturing units is a violation of FCO provisions and the State Governments are empowered to take penal action against them under the provisions of FCO/ECA, 1955.

Dean Committee on Agricultural Education and Research

†1811.SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of agricultural education and research is declining continously in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.